



# Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #23 – January 16, 2003

## Missouri Department of Health Publishes Preparedness Newsletter

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is publishing a monthly Preparedness Response Update. To date, they have published a November and a December issue. The electronic address for the Emergency/Terrorism Response program is [http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT\\_Response/BT\\_Response.html](http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT_Response/BT_Response.html). The electronic address for the Preparedness Response Update is: [http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT\\_Response/DHSSPreparednessReponseUpdateNov\\_2002.pdf](http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT_Response/DHSSPreparednessReponseUpdateNov_2002.pdf)

## CERT/Citizens Corp Grant Update

To date 37 applications have been received for CERT funding. You have until COB, January 17 to get your notice of interest to Jim Charrier at SEMA. You can email Jim at [mosema@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:mosema@mail.state.mo.us)

Communities interested in receiving a grant for Citizens Corps must send a narrative of the activities your citizen council would implement. The narratives must be submitted to Dante Gliniecki by COB, February 14. You may either mail the narrative to Citizen Corps c/o SEMA, P.O. Box 116, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or email Dante at [dglinieck@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:dglinieck@mail.state.mo.us)

## NWS Issues Guideline for “Snow” Reporting

By Jim Kramper, NWS, St. Louis

The National Weather Service (NWS) established an email address for spotters to send in snow reports. The regional offices are going to try and keep a computer open. The address is: [lsx.spotter@noaa.gov](mailto:lsx.spotter@noaa.gov)

NWS will also be testing some new software for real-time reports via the Internet. This should get started around the 1st of 2003.

And, as a reminder, I want to emphasize that we really want the EMA community and spotters to send us snowfall reports! During a snow event, we typically call sheriff or 911 offices however they are busy dealing with accidents, etc. That is why alternative phone numbers are important to get information on snow amounts.

Determining snow amounts is easy to do. Just take a ruler, take several measurements, and give us your average depth. Be careful on grassy areas. The grass will often make the depth seem deeper than it actually is. Take some measurements on the ground, on wood surfaces and metal. This will give you a good overall feel for what you really have.

## Eleven Missouri Fire Departments Receive FEMA Grants

Eleven Missouri Fire Departments received Fire Grants in the current round of funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety.

The following departments from Missouri have been announced in the twelfth round: Adrian Rural Fire Dept. (\$17,748); Wellington-Napoleon Fire Prot. Dist. (\$40,437); Tri-County Fire & Rescue Assoc. in Richland (\$33,165); Albany Community Fire Prot. Dist. (\$35,154); Freistatt Farmers Fire Prot. Assoc., Inc. (\$21,751); Noel Vol. Fire Dept (\$29,016); Avilla Vol. Fire Dept. of Reeds (\$46,240); Nixa Fire Prot. Dist. (\$113,427); Theodosia Area Vol. Fire Dept. (\$77,614); Butler County Fire Prot. Dist. of Poplar Bluff (\$74,250) and Frankford Fire Dept. (\$41,578).

## **Newest Issue of Homeland Defense Journal Now On-line**

The Homeland Defense Journal. Vol. 2, Issue 1 is on-line [www.homelanddefensejournal.com](http://www.homelanddefensejournal.com). This issue contains articles on: Communicating in a Crisis, Mining Audio and Digital Content for Actionable Information, Telecom Issues, Managing Security, and Business Opportunities.

## **Disaster Response and Recovery Operations (DRRO) Course Being Updated**

FEMA's Disaster Response and Recovery Operations (DRRO) Course is being updated this year. The course material in some examples is no longer relevant due to **major** on-going program changes.

If potential students/jurisdictions need program information in the meantime, there is Independent study courses for the Public Assistance program through EMI. If information is needed on the Public Assistance Program, the Individuals and Households Program, or the Mitigation Program, EMDs and elected officials are encouraged to contact SEMA's Disaster and Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief Chuck May at (573) 526-9112 or Program Manager Alan Prenger at (573) 526-9114.

## **Congress To Consider NFIP Reauthorization Early in Session**

When the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes the House is expected to take up the reauthorization bill for the National Flood Insurance Program. The program expired on December 31, 2002 because Congress did not take action on the bill before adjourning for the holidays. House Financial Services Committees Co-Chairs (Oxley and Frank) sent a letter to FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh on December 17 advising FEMA to continue to operate the program with the knowledge that Congress intends to reauthorize the program and make it retroactive to December 31.

## **Two More Nominated to Homeland Security Department**

President Bush has nominated two more people to be on the management team of the new Department of Homeland Security. Janet Hale is slated to be the Undersecretary for Management and Clark Ervin was selected for Inspector General. Hale currently serves at HHS. Ervin is currently at the Department of State and before that he held various positions within Texas state government.

## **NEMA/FEMA Conference Call Clarifies Response & Recovery Issues**

The NEMA Response & Recovery Committee held a constructive conference call with FEMA. A couple of key issues were:

- National Response Plan - The National Strategy for Homeland Security calls for consolidation of all federal response plans into a consolidated single plan. FEMA is the lead on this initiative. Before they begin this process, they are updating the existing Federal Response Plan to reflect the new Department of Homeland Security. That process should be completed by the end of January. FEMA will then take up the National Response Plan activity. They do not wish to do away with the existing plans but to review them for gaps, shortfalls, or inconsistencies and address those issues so that a seamless plan is the result.
- EOC Construction Funds – the R&R Committee expressed concern that many states are not able to access the EOC construction funds in the FY02 supplemental because they cannot meet the 50/50 match requirement. FEMA is aware of this problem and hopes to work with Congress to seek relief, but the prospects of being successful seem slim.

## **New Guide Out on Special Needs of People with Disabilities**

The National Organization on Disability and IAEM has released a new tool for emergency planning. The "Guide on the Special Needs of People with Disabilities" is a book designed to provide information on how to incorporate the needs of people with disabilities into emergency response plans. An electronic copy of the guide can be downloaded from the NOD web site at <http://www.nod.org>.

## **Another Educational Resource for Emergency Managers**

NASA's education and outreach program division designed a new educational web site titled "SciJinks" (<http://scijinks.nasa.gov>) provided by NASA & NOAA. The web site is dedicated to providing an exciting and interactive opportunity to learn about weather, Earth's environment and emergency preparedness.

## **FEMA Smart Practices Highlights Educating Media About Emergency Ops**

In an effort to help local media better understand emergency operations, the Volusia County (Florida), Emergency Management Division held a mock hurricane exercise that placed local journalists in emergency management roles. The exercise allowed members of the news media to experience first-hand some of the challenges that face emergency personnel during a major emergency or disaster and helped increase their understanding of emergency preparations and response operations.

The reporters learned about emergency response operations and became an active partner in educating the public about emergency preparedness.

## **Earthquake Awareness Campaign Posted to Internet**

The Earthquake Awareness Campaign, Feb. 1-8, 2003, is now on our web page. Special events include a free morning business/mitigation seminar and the Missouri Seismic Safety Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at the Osage Center in Cape Girardeau, a morning business/mitigation seminar at the Ameren Corporate Headquarters on Feb 6. in St. Louis, and interactive earthquake displays and exhibits at the St. Louis Science Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Feb. 8.